



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RE APPLICATION OF:

DANG, et al.

SERIAL No.: 10/017,193

FILED: December 12, 2001

FOR: SURFACE COATING METHOD AND DEVICE

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

EXAMINER: Padgett, Marianne L.

ART UNIT: 1762

Confirmation No.: 5901

H. Myla
5/1/03

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 APR 29 2003
 GROUP 1700

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES

Sir:

In response to the requirement for restriction requested by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed March 25, 2003 in the above-identified application, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I, ^{method} with traverse, for examination. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested. "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct and independent inventions." MPEP 803 (emphasis added). In the instant application, the subject matter of the claims of Group I (claims 1-31) and the claim of Group II (claim 32) is closely related and involves overlapping searches. Examination of both sets of claims would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner and Applicants respectfully urge reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement with regard to Groups I and II.

In the event the Office does not withdraw the restriction requirement and rejoin the claim of Group II for examination in the present application, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claim of Group II.

In response to the requirement for election of species, Applicants elect to begin prosecution with the species of group A (nucleic/amino acid) and subspecies of group ii (cell attachment factor) without traverse.

Upon allowance of generic claims, applicants request consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or which otherwise include all the limitations of the allowed generic claims.

No fees are believed necessary with this communication. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any deficiency in fees herein, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2207.

Respectfully submitted,



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